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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT

Factors Affecting the Mining Industry

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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SOURCE

1. A water pump service woman at a mine receives 4,600 crowns for 248 working hours. After 14 days she is paid a certain amount and at the end of the month the remainder of her salary. Monthly deductions were as follows: 445 crowns income tax; 50 crowns to the Central Council Trade Union; 20 crowns for North Korea; and 65 crowns for coal received from the Mine Administration.
2. Each new employee receives a rubber suit and one pair of boots from the Mining Administration. Other employees who have worked for some time and are in need of a new rubber suit or boots must apply to the Mine Administration for a voucher before purchasing the needed equipment with personal funds.
3. The cost of living has risen considerably since 1949. In the past, mine workers received more pay for less work. Due to the production requirements and a definite manpower shortage there is no idle labor. Men and women are being transferred from textile and other light industry to mining.
4. The training period is too short for new miners and as a result not even the basic facts are learned. Only workers who handle explosives are given a six-month course.
5. Requirements are too high, consequently only 80% of them can be fulfilled. Despite the promises of a bonus and extra pay, workers show no interest in increasing their output.
6. Miners have absolutely no interest in trade unionism because of incompetent leaders. The workers prefer spending an evening at the local hotel rather than attending a propaganda meeting. Radio reports and leaflets circulated in the mines are heavy with Communist propaganda.
7. Only 15% of those employed in the mines are Communists. The older members constantly leave the party and many others are expelled because of their lack of interest and because of other activities.
8. A miner who misses a shift loses two days vacation, 20% from his pay and is fined 20 crowns. Despite these severe measures, many shifts are missed because a miner will visit a doctor, explain his or her illness and with a written excuse receive remuneration for the shift missed.
9. Children of women working in the mines are cared for by politically trained nurses.
10. Workers from textile factories, former tradesmen, professors of secondary schools and universities and white collar workers in public offices who are politically unreliable are transferred to mines and construction projects.

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